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## X WORLD FOOD PROSPECTS FOR 1946-47

World food supplies for the 1946-47 consumption year (August-July) are expected to be slightly larger than those for 1945-46 but considerably below average. With continued favorable weather for the growing and harvesting of food crops, the increases in production during the current year are apparently more than offsetting the reduction in food stocks.

Since deficit regions account for a major part of the expected increase in output, international shipments required to maintain emergency levels of consumption in 1946-47 will be smaller than in 1945-46. But, if the present difficult food situation in many areas is to show some improvement in 1946-47 as a whole, there will be continued need for large imports, even though war-time economies in the utilization of domestically-produced crops are still practiced.

The increase in food output for 1946-47 results mainly from larger crops of wheat, sugar and potatoes and a larger fish catch. Some increase also is likely in the supplies of rice and vegetable oils. Supplies of meats and dairy products during the next year are not likely to be any larger than they were in the past year and supplies of animal fats will be somewhat smaller especially in the United States.

Conditions for growing and harvesting the 1946-47 wheat crop have been satisfactory in the principal producing countries of the Northern Hemisphere and, except for drought in parts of Australia, an expanded acreage has been planted under generally favorable conditions in the Southern Hemisphere. Should favorable growing conditions continue in the later area during the coming months, the world output may nearly equal the prewar average of 5.9 billion bushels. This would be about 700 million bushels or 13 percent above the 1945-46 crop. Stocks of wheat in the surplus producing countries on July 1, however, were about 450 million bushels below a year earlier and stocks, no doubt, have been reduced to unusually low levels in many of the importing countries by the acute shortage of wheat during the past year. Therefore, total supplies for 1946-47 will be little, if any, larger than for 1945-46.

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board  
August 27, 1946



The acreage planted to rice in 1946 is likely to be somewhat larger than in 1945 when it was only about 90 percent of prewar. Because of unsettled economic and political conditions in several important producing countries, however, the acreage planted to rice in these countries will still be considerably below the prewar average. The main fall crop of southeast Asia has recently been transplanted and the final outturn will depend upon weather conditions during the next few months. During the 1945-46 season, unfavorable weather sharply reduced yields in these areas so that average conditions this year should result in a somewhat larger crop.

The early crops of rice in India and China, which are an important part of the food supply during the summer and fall months were considerably below average. Because of these small crops large imports of food into these countries will be required from now until the fall crop becomes available if a critical food shortage is to be averted.

World sugar production during the 1946-47 season also promises to be somewhat larger than in 1945-46. It will still be below the prewar average, however, and with the unusually low stocks on hand at the beginning of the season, supplies will be far short of current needs.

Production of sugar in Europe is expected to be substantially larger than in 1945-46 with the greatest increases occurring in those countries where production was unusually low last year. The 1947 Cuban crop is expected to be about 10 percent above the 4.5 million tons harvested last spring. Production in the United States probably will be the largest since 1942.

Prospects are favorable for larger supplies of vegetable and marine oils during 1946-47 but this increase will be partially offset by the decline in production of animal fats. The re-establishment of the Philippine copra industry is moving along at a fast rate and exports are increasing rapidly. The recent agreement of the Netherlands East Indies to sell its coconut oil to the United States is expected to result in increasing supplies from this important producing area. Supplies of sunflowerseed oil in Argentina are above a year ago and larger olive oil crops are in prospect in Europe. In Manchuria prospects for the soybean crop are reported to be favorable, and production may reach 85 percent of average. Some carryover stocks also are available but exports will be limited by the lack of facilities for moving supplies to ports, high exchange rates, and political uncertainties. World butter production has declined with the expansion and consumption of other dairy products and lard output will be reduced as a result of the smaller hog production in Canada, United States and Argentina.

The areas of greatest increases in food production over 1945-46 apparently are in southern and western Europe and French North Africa, but substantial increases are also in prospect in the Philippines and Japan.

As a result of favorable crop prospects in the United States and Canada food production in North America this year may equal the record output of 1944. In the Southern Hemisphere countries the acreage devoted to food crops has been increased and production in these countries should be considerably larger than during the past 2 years when crops in most areas were somewhat below average. Crop production in India and China also is likely to be some larger than in 1945-46. The early rice crop in these countries was reduced considerably by unfavorable weather but conditions for planting the main fall crop have been better than a year earlier when conditions were unusually adverse.

### CONTINENTAL EUROPE

The outlook for production in continental Europe as a whole remains much better than a year ago. Total food output, in terms of food energy, for the consumption year 1946-47 may still be forecast at nearly 90 percent of the 1933-37 average, as compared with 80 percent or less for 1945-46.

As stated in earlier reports, the appraisal of food output prospects is based on the assumption that the wartime diversion of food uses of products formerly used for feed will be continued in the coming consumption year. Thus the estimate makes allowance for much higher than normal bread grain extractions, for the admixture of grains formerly not used for food, and other similar shifts in utilization. Total agricultural output in 1946-47 certainly will be considerably less than the relatively high food output estimate of nearly 90 percent of prewar given above. It is largely through those shifts in the utilization of agricultural output compared to prewar that such a level of food production may be attained—at the expense of the qualitative composition of the diet.

Latest reports still indicate that the Continent's 1946 grain, potato, and sugar-beet crops, though well below prewar, will be considerably larger than in 1945. Production of fats and oils is also expected to be somewhat larger in the coming season, mainly as a result of an increase in olive oil output. Little change is anticipated for most other foodstuffs.

The improvement in the crop outlook for continental Europe is due largely to an improvement in weather conditions, though seeded acreages generally have shown some recovery. In the Mediterranean area, where yields last year were sharply cut by drought, preliminary estimates of the wheat harvest indicate an increase in output from around 55 percent of the prewar average in 1945 to over 85 percent in 1946. Marked increases over the low 1945 level are also still in prospect for the corn, rice, potato, olive, and (in Italy) sugar-beet crops.

Western Europe has also had much better weather this season than last, and the fertilizer shortage has been considerably relieved. Wheat production is estimated at 75-90 percent of prewar, as against less than 60 percent in 1945. Output of sugar beets and potatoes is also expected to be well above the 1945 level; though the prewar average will not be reached.



Fall-sown crops in the Danube Basin likewise recovered strongly. Preliminary estimates for wheat put 1946 production at around 80 percent of the 1933-37 average. Prospects for a substantial increase for spring sown crops, however, have been adversely affected by abnormally dry weather in recent weeks in some parts of the region. According to present reports, the corn harvest will be no larger than in 1945, when output was estimated at nearly 75 percent of the prewar average.

In central and eastern Europe, the recovery in total food output will be less pronounced than in the regions to the south and west. While sown acreages are somewhat above the low 1945 level, weather conditions over the region as a whole have apparently been no more favorable than last year, and large areas are still suffering from an acute fertilizer shortage. Though production of bread grains, potatoes, and especially sugar beet has increased, the combined output of these crops is not likely to exceed 70 percent of prewar.

Prospects in northern Europe still indicate little change in production as compared with 1945. In that year, the bread grain harvest was some 85 percent of prewar, while sugar-beet output was close to, and potatoe output above, the prewar average.

It must again be emphasized that the outlook for improved food production in continental Europe should not be viewed too optimistically. The improvement is measured against the extremely poor production results of 1945-46, and total output will still be much smaller than in prewar times, when the Continent imported some 10 percent of its food supply (including feed in terms of food).

Notwithstanding the prospective increase in output, many countries will be unable to maintain food consumption at even the low levels prevailing in 1945-46 without the help of substantial imports, and shipments from the formerly surplus-producing regions of eastern and southeastern Europe to the west are not likely to be significant. At the same time, the need for an increase in food consumption has been intensified by another year of hunger and deficiency. Food imports as large as those of 1945-46, which amounted to around 15 million short tons (expressed in terms of wheat), would only suffice to raise consumption (at the retail level) by the nonfarm population in most European countries to 2,400 calories per person per day--in deficit ex-enemy countries to around 2,000 calories. Such consumption levels, for most areas, would mean a per capita intake by the nonfarm population of below 90 percent of the prewar intake--in the deficit ex-enemy countries 80 percent or below.

#### FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

Food production in French North Africa will be far larger in 1946-47 than in 1945-46, when agriculture suffered severely from drought. Despite the increase, however, output will not suffice to support the consumption levels of prewar times when the population was much smaller than it is at present.

Official estimates for wheat and barley, the two main food crops, show a combined output of 3.4 million short tons in 1946 as against an average annual retained supply (production minus net exports) of about 3.8 million in the period 1933-34 to 1937-38 or, on a per capita basis, around 330 pounds as against 467 pounds. Preliminary reports for olive oil likewise indicate that production of vegetable oils, the main kind of fat consumed in that region, will also fall short of the average in prewar times, when imports of vegetable oils about offset exports.

Under the circumstances, French North Africa will hardly be in a position to resume its prewar status as a net exporter of food. Arrangements were made in June to ship wheat to France during the summer, but France is to replace these shipments by early fall. For the season 1946-47 as a whole, net imports of grain and vegetable oils are more likely than net exports, while sugar requirements, as always, must be imported. Substantial quantities of fruits, vegetables, and wine, however, should be available for export.

### SOVIET UNION

Considerably contrast in weather conditions in different sections of the Soviet Union, which characterized the 1946 growing season, resulted in a rather spotted harvest.

Dry hot weather prevailed in the spring and early summer in many southern and central regions of the European U.S.S.R. Many regions of the Ukraine had also suffered from the drought, which affected crops adversely. July rains, which broke the drought in many districts, had a beneficial effect on millets (the acreage of which apparently increased this year in the dry areas), corn, potatoes, vegetables, sunflower seed, and probably sugar beets.

The condition of winter and spring grains, outside of the central and southern regions, was reported as satisfactory or good. This includes such important regions as the Don-North Caucasus, Middle Volga, Urals, and Siberia, as well as the western part of the Soviet Union.

Harvesting weather was generally better than in 1945, when it was very unfavorable. Should the favorable weather conditions continue during the harvest season, it may be possible, with the somewhat increased acreage and manpower and draft power supplies, to gather a somewhat larger grain crop than in 1945, though it would still be appreciably below prewar. As far as grain exports in 1946-47 are concerned, these will depend almost as much on the policy and decisions of the Soviet Government as on the size of the crop.

### MIDDLE EAST

Up-to-date estimates of the crops that have already been harvested or will be harvested this fall in the Middle East are reassuring. Also livestock is in good condition. Consequently, the region as a whole is entering upon another year of sufficient food supplies and exportable surpluses.



As in normal years, the deficit countries within the region will be Palestine, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Also Egypt will need some imports of wheat as a result of a short crop this year.

These deficits, however, will be by far exceeded by surpluses from the rest of the region, including 150,000 tons of milled rice, 45,000 tons of grain sorghum and some pulses in Egypt; large numbers of live-stock, substantial quantities of dried fruits and nuts and some olive oil and grains in Turkey; over 300,000 tons of barley and wheat, and the normal substantial surpluses of dates and livestock in Iraq; some 50,000 tons of cereals in Syria (beyond the needs of Syria and Lebanon) and a few thousand tons of olive oil in both countries; together with 60,000 to 100,000 tons of cereals and the usual large surpluses of dried fruits and nuts in Iran.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

According to official reports it appears that crop yields should be at least normal while such grains as wheat, oats, barley and rye may attain slightly above-normal production levels. Warm and clear weather during the first half of August was favorable for maturing grain crops and improved prospects for root crops, principally potatoes and sugar beets. Production of livestock products in 1946-47 is still expected to fall below last year's figure because of the continued short of feed grain, hay and concentrates.

Critical food items such as flour, bread, and milk continued in short supply during early August. This situation is expected to be eased somewhat during late August and September by the Government's bonus payments to farmers of 9.6d per bushel to stimulate marketing of wheat. It is anticipated that a hoped-for goal of 325,000 long tons of grain will be available for early milling and consumption as a result of this governmental action.

With the rationing of bread, flour and all cereal products, the supplies of certain other foods available to non-priority consumers was slightly increased. Effective August 11, total supplies of meat offals for processing were increased by about 20 percent. As a further consideration, home-tinned fish is now distributed to consumers free of points. Additional stocks of such rationed items as canned fruits, dried peas and dried eggs will be available by imports from the United States during the current quarter while considerable imports of fresh fruits and dried vegetables are expected from Italy.

#### BRITISH DOMINIONS

##### Canada

Crop prospects in Canada have been generally favorable except for extremely dry weather in some parts of the Prairie Provinces and in the Maritimes during the past 2 months, which reduced the hay and other feedstuff supply for the 1946-47 crop year. Wheat and other grains are being harvested in the Prairie Provinces while conditions of pasture



lands in Quebec and the Maritimes have recently been improved by general rains.

The development of the wheat crop has been, on the whole, well maintained throughout the Dominion. Although no final estimate can actually be made until after the grain is harvested, several forecasts have indicated that the total production of fall and spring wheat may exceed 425 million bushels which is a very substantial increase over the 306 million bushels produced in 1945.

Fruit production in British Columbia and in the eastern provinces is approaching record year figures with yields of peaches and apples greatly increased over those of the 1945 season.

Although the condition of livestock continued fair in late August, milk production still declined in Ontario as the result of extremely dry pastures. Inspected livestock slaughterings, excluding sheep, continued to decline, though at a slower rate than in previous months. In the 33 week's period of 1946 ending as of August 17, cattle totalled 876,628 as compared to 909,995 for the same period of 1945. Hog slaughtering also decreased from a total of 3,812,053 for the first 33 weeks of 1945 to 2,746,651 during the comparable period of 1946, or approximately 28 percent.

#### Australia and New Zealand

Except for the drought in Queensland and parts of New South Wales which threatens to reduce Australia's wheat crop about 39 million bushels below earlier expectations, the seasonal outlook in Australia and New Zealand remains favorable as the 1946-47 crop year begins. The 13.3 million acres of wheat sown for grain in Australia is about equal to the average prewar acreage and is 16 percent above last year's acreage.

Exports of mutton and lamb during 1946-47 are expected to be much greater than during the previous season but still substantially below normal. Beef exports during 1946-47 also may be below normal as feeding in Queensland, which is the main beef producing state, is seriously affected by the drought.

#### Union of South Africa

The Union of South Africa will be dependent on corn imports to assure food stocks for native consumption until the 1946-47 crop is ready for marketing.

Slight improvement is noted in the European-grown kaffir corn crop which is now estimated at 77,800 tons as compared with 62,400 tons realized from the 1944-45 season. The present monthly rate of wheat consumption has been reduced to less than 2/3 of the 1945 average and even at this lower rate, it is estimated that about 75,000 tons would have to be imported to meet consumption requirements for the second half of 1946. With the generally favorable conditions now prevailing, it is anticipated that the next harvest will result in a crop of 600,000 tons, which is well above the 1935-39 average of 508,000 tons and about double the small crop of 1945-46.

Poultry and livestock production has been hampered by extreme shortages of corn and rice by-products normally used for feeding. Shortages of fats and oils have been intensified by the reduction in imports of peanuts, palm kernels and cottonseed oil from the Belgian Congo to about 50 percent of normal.

### THE FAR EAST

#### India

Mass death from starvation in India has been successfully forestalled to date but the most critical, final quarter of the crop year is yet to be faced (Sept., Oct., Nov.). There can be no general relief from the food shortage until the main rice harvest is gathered in December.

Stocks of food grains in the hands of the Government are at critically low levels, particularly in rice and millets. The rice portion of the ration in the Madras area was cut from 12 to 8 ounces per day on August 14. In Bengal rice supplies will be spread by substituting wheat and wheat products in the urban ration to a larger degree than in the rural ration.

The programmed imports of food grains during the final quarter of the year are at a rate higher than in the preceding quarters. The bulk of the imports, however, are wheat and flour whereas the most critical shortage is rice. Small shipments of millet from Egypt and larger amounts of corn (maize) from Argentina and the United States have started to arrive. Corn has proved to be an acceptable substitute in the native diet.

The summer (Aus) rice crop, which is about 25 percent of the total production in Bengal, Orissa, and Assam, has been harvested. It is unofficially estimated at a  $2/3$  normal crop.

The overall weather reports from India have been good for all crops grown during the summer months. No estimates of acreage in current food crops have been released but there is no reason to expect a decline in acreage of any food crops from former years.

#### Burma

The scarcity and high price of cooking oils, fish paste, dried fish, and dried chili peppers results in the virtual elimination of these items from the diet of the paddy farmer. The loss of these basic ingredients of his very limited diet is sorely felt by the cultivator. His will to work and his capacity to work are perceptibly reduced.

#### China

Crop prospects in northern and central China continue to indicate a total food output somewhat larger than last year, but crop conditions are poor in the southern provinces. In Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces, the July rice harvest was reported only 50 to 60 percent of average but the second crop to be harvested in December shows much better promise.



The early crop normally furnishes more than 50 percent of the year's rice supply, however, and the total of the two crops is now expected to be only 75-80 percent of the prewar average. It is now estimated that the first crop would have to be supplemented with more than two months' rice supply and the total of both crops with three and one-half months' rice supply for both provinces as a whole, if normal food consumption were to prevail until next July's harvest. Present crops can therefore be expected to alleviate famine conditions in parts of this region only partially and temporarily unless food is supplied from outside.

Food also continues short in the Hunan famine area. In much of the eastern portion of the province, where the famine has been particularly severe, an early rice crop is harvested in July and August and a late interplanted crop in September and October. This year the early crop, normally the larger of the two, was only about 25 percent of the expected total harvest, and will still leave an important shortage before the harvest of the late crop.

Rice-yield prospects in the Yangtse Valley improved notably in the month ending in mid-August owing to favorable weather. The Szechwan crop is still reported below last year's but here there was a considerable carry-over. The total rice crop for China, excluding Manchuria and Formosa, is not now expected to exceed 92 percent of the prewar average. This would be about 50,771,000 short tons of paddy compared to the 1931-1937 average of 55,186,000 short tons, a production shortage of about 4,400,000 short tons. Before the war, consumption exceeded production by about 1,000,000 short tons because of imports, so that 1946 production would be about 5.4 million tons below prewar consumption.

Crop conditions in Manchuria vary considerably owing to military activities, removal of draft animals, and release of administrative controls. The rice crop is the poorest and probably will be only about one-fourth to one-half of the usual crop. Other cereals and beans may reach 85 percent of average. Although carry-over of soybeans from last year is estimated to have been about 550,000 short tons, export possibilities will be limited because of political uncertainties, difficulties in moving to railways and ports, and the high exchange rate for Chinese currency.

#### Japan

The outlook for the rice crop to be harvested this autumn continues good, considering the severe shortage of fertilizer, and a crop of 9,200,000 to 9,700,000 short tons of rice (husked basis) is considered possible. This would compare with the 1932-36 average of 9,924,000 short tons. Japanese production of sweet potatoes is expected to approximate 6,600,000 short tons and that of white potatoes to be nearly 1,800,000 short tons. These crops would be considerably greater than prewar, due to expanded acreage, but they would be below last year's harvest of 6,860,000 short tons of sweet potatoes and 2,687,000 short tons of white potatoes. These tentative forecasts are, of course, subject to change depending on weather conditions.

## The Philippines

The extensive use of root crops in the rural areas of the Philippines has reduced the requirements for rice but the estimated import requirement of rice is 250,000 tons from July through November. Manila will be dependent upon imported rice for the next four months, and the other areas for about three months. It is anticipated that the food crisis before the main harvest in December may be confined largely to Manila and northern Luzon, where the typhoon of July 16 caused heavy damage to the corn crop.

Rice planting in the Philippines is almost completed after a very slow start due to dry weather and shortage of carabao and implements. It is estimated that the acreage planted will be ten percent below the prewar level.

## Other Countries

The earlier offer by Premier Sjahrir of the Indoneasian Government of 500,000 tons of rice to India in exchange for barter goods has at last received the sanction of all governments concerned. The first shipment of rice will take place shortly.

In return for this rice the Government of India has agreed to deliver equivalent value in cloth, implements, and medicine, which are badly needed in Java. She will also support Dutch requirements for a rice allocation from the International Emergency Food Counsel.

It is expected that large quantities of rice will not be shipped from Java as long as food deficiencies remain in some areas of the Netherlands East Indies, although the need of rice today in India is urgent. Unless the big ports of Java are used only 20,000 to 30,000 tons of paddy per month can be lifted.

In Siam the rains are still insufficient to insure a good crop. The political situation in the country has not as yet been settled and the government procurement program has not been able to function to its fullest capacity. At the present time Siam has indicated that 50,000 tons of rice will be available for shipment in August. Lack of internal transportation continues to make it impossible to move large quantities of paddy to Bangkok for milling and export. Increased paddy movement normally takes place in September.

Continued political differences in French Indo-China have further hampered production and procurement of exportable surplus rice. The French Government has indicated that 120,000 tons will be available for export in the latter half of 1946.

British Malaya now faces its worst food shortage since the war. Singapore's rice ration is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ounces per day, with a combined rice and flour ration of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ounces per day per person. The Malayan Union has only 3 ounces of rice per day and 6 ounces combined rice and flour



ration. This is an over-all average including allowances given laborers and does not mean that the people are able to get their full ration. The government is trying to meet the food shortage by urging its people to produce as much food as possible, and to bring more paddy under cultivation.

## LATIN AMERICA

### Argentina

Total wheat exports are expected to amount to 1.9 million short tons for the year 1946 compared with 2.6 million short tons for 1945 and 3.6 prewar, 1936-40. The first estimate of the 1946-47 planted acreage of wheat is 16.5 million acres compared with 14.2 million acres sown a year ago, an increase of 14 percent.

Corn exports are expected to total 1.9 million short tons which is nearly three times as great as in 1945 but only a third of annual exports in prewar years, 1936-40. With exports of wheat and corn at these levels, stocks will be very low by the end of the year.

Meat exports for 1946 are expected to be slightly in excess of 800,000 short tons as compared with 725,000 short tons for 1945. The poultry and hog outlook has improved slightly because of a reduction in domestic wheat by-product prices as a result of a Governmental decree and a recent reduction in corn prices.

The export price of wheat continues at \$2.84 per bushel (U.S. currency equivalent) but the export price of corn has declined from \$2.00 per bushel in July to \$1.59 - \$1.66 in August, reflecting the prospective large United States crop. Commodities allocated for export are moving chiefly to countries from which Argentina obtains manufactured products. Export embargoes have been placed upon rice, animal fats, and eggs.

### Brazil

A scarcity of wheat and flour continues to be the most serious food deficit in Brazil. Arrivals of wheat and flour in terms of grain were less than half of normal for the first six months of this year. The volume of future wheat imports from Argentina appears to be somewhat uncertain. Additions of corn and manioc to wheat flour have helped to extend supplies somewhat.

The present situation with respect to other basic staples is generally satisfactory. The favorable outturn of the corn, manioc, rice and bean crops has assured Brazil adequate supplies of these commodities, at the same time leaving sizeable export surpluses. With respect to the coming year, there are indications that some of the land planted to cereals may be replaced by cotton. Meat supplies in most urban centers continued to be adequate.

## Cuba

At the end of the sugar grinding season in late July preliminary figures on total production were 4,476,000 short tons of raw sugar and 245,000,000 gallons of blackstrap molasses. Good spring and early summer rains and some increase in cane acreage provide excellent prospects for an increase in the 1947 sugar crop over that of the present harvest. Stocks of imported food products on which Cuba depends so heavily—notably rice, wheat flour, lard, edible oil, and soap tallow—are extremely low and prices are rising rapidly. Consumer scarcity exists in all sections of the country on these items.

## Mexico

The condition of crops and pastures in Mexico continues generally favorable. Corn production is expected to reach 2,590,000 short tons or 24 percent above that of last year and average to better than average crops are being obtained for most fruits and vegetables. Little rain fell during July in the State of Tamaulipas and parts of Nuevo Leon, but above average precipitation in the northwestern and western districts brought relief from the severe drought of the previous four months. Better livestock conditions in these latter areas are expected to result from the improved pastures.

Acute shortages of lard, wheat, and rice are still being experienced throughout the country and prices continue at record levels. Many state governments in wheat producing regions are restricting shipments outside of their states in an effort to conserve supplies for local consumption. In spite of recent arrivals of Cuban sugar, supplies are still short in about half of the country. Total quantities of vegetable oils available for consumption during 1946 are estimated to be at about the 1945 level. Supplies of lard and other animal fats continue below effective demand.

## Other Countries

High winds during July caused unusual damage on the banana plantations in Guatemala. Shipments in 1946 will probably be reduced by two million stems because of these blowdowns. Despite beneficial rains in many sections of Nicaragua during the first days of August, prospects generally are poor for crops this year. The early August earthquakes in the Caribbean caused considerable damage in the northern part of the Dominican Republic. Food is short there and the Government is controlling the export of food products to conserve supplies for this area.

